Nov. 30, 19

WORK FOR THE NEW CENTURY

"PERIL
OPPORTUNITY
COÖPERATION"

Woman's Board of Home Missions
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The selections here given are from Bishop ANDREWS, Bishop POTTER, Dr. STRONG, Dr. MACARTHUR, Dr. PARKHURST, Dr. GREER, "IAN MCLAREN," Dr. MCPHERSON, Dr. RAINSFORD; *The New York Observer*, *The Churchman*, *The Congregationalist*, *The Outlook*, and *The New York Tribune*.

FOREWORD.

"If America is glorious and dear to us, it is because we and our fathers have striven to make it God's country. It is precious to us, not for what it has, but for what it is, and for what it can be and do for the world."

Happy art thou, O Israel;
Who is like unto thee, a people
Saved by the Lord,
The shield of thy help,
And that is the sword of thy excellency.—Deut. xxxiii: 29.

"We are a people with a mission, a mission to organize, to administer, to reclaim, to conserve, to construct. We know we have this mission because we see the work to be done, we know that it ought to be done and we feel that we have the strength to do it."

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.—II. Cor. x: 4.

"It is a primary principle of Christian ethics that they know no moral difference between *national* and *individual* obligation. Neither nations nor individuals brought face to face with a new duty have a right to consult self-interest or plead weakness. Duty has the first demand."

The Lord said unto me, Say not I am a child; for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.—Jer. i: 7.

"A crisis is upon us; a crisis means always a trial, a test, a judgment for those who are in it. What shall the judgment be? Are the nation, the government, the administration seriously preparing to meet it?"

I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.—Deut. xxx: 19.

IMPORTANT ISSUES.

"Of the greatness of the issues before the American people and of the duty of this nation we ought to think and to speak upon our knees. Our public school system is to be improved by

elementary religious instruction. The Sabbath is to be rescued from public desecration. The drinking usages of society are to be reformed. The periodical press is to be purified. Marriage is to be made inviolable."

How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?—Jer. iv : 21.

"Political corruption is to be overcome. Justice for weak and wronged races to be secured. The slums of great cities to be redeemed. Nascent States to be fashioned by the gospel. Mormonism to be overthrown. Immigration is to be met at the threshold with Christian and American influences. The Government itself is to be made, as far as practicable, an image of Divine sovereignty."

Lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes.—Isa. liv : 2.

"The nation is sound, the foundations of our government are secure, the administration has in it, potentially, the virtue and the strength to lead, but we cannot follow with confidence till we see that it has shaken itself from *moral lethargy*."

It is high time to awake out of sleep. . . . The night is far spent, the day is at hand : Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.—Rom. xiii : 11, 12.

"The Church stands for religion, the State for order, and these two express all that is best in the life of the people, and just in proportion as the life of the people is high and noble, so are they."

I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, the work is great and large. . . . *In* what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort thither unto us ; our God shall fight for us.—Neh. iv : 19, 20.

"The real remedy for many abuses and dangers lies outside the domain of law and finds its root in religion."

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid ; yea, we establish the law.—Rom. iii : 31.

BIBLE INSTRUCTION IN SECULAR SCHOOLS.

"The main mission of the Church in education is to teach the Christian life. Shall we reach adequately the souls of the nation's children in any other way than through the daily school? And what is more, unless we do reach them through the public school, will the school make of them good citizens?"

From a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.—II. Tim. iii: 15.

"When we eliminate positive Christian teaching from the daily life of our schools we eliminate from them not only a power that makes for personal righteousness, but the strongest motive for altruistic effort, and so the strongest factor in producing the good citizen."

They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.—Neh. viii: 8.

"While schools are proving themselves nurseries of patriots, they can also be made nurseries of truly religious men and women, just as lessons of patriotism are taught in connection with the life of Washington. It is but a question of time when we shall all come to see that what is desirable in the man must be planted in the boy."

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine.—Ez. xviii: 4.

"The excuse of sectarian jealousies is a mean subterfuge. The real reason why our schools can be called "godless" is, because those who profess and call themselves Christians do not care to make them godly."

While men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.—Mat. xiii: 25.

ELEVATION OF SOCIETY.

"Every reform at first divides society into three classes: its friends, who are few; its enemies, who are few, and the indifferent, who are many. If reform ever succeeds it must win its victory from the indifferent."

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.—Rev. iii: 15, 16.

"The greatest forward movement of all ages is upon us. That movement is the saving of society, and that work the Church of Christ must undertake. . . . If the Church refuses to save society, she will fail to save herself, because she will fail to adapt herself to changed conditions."

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hands of the poor and needy.—Ez. xvi: 49.

"With the self-conscious social life of the new civilization there is being developed a social conscience. It will be one of the sacred duties of the twentieth century churches to educate this conscience by applying to it the social teachings of Jesus."

Our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world.—II. Cor. i: 12.

OBLIGATIONS OF MARRIAGE.

"The institutions and obligations of marriage have come to be so lightly regarded that the least thoughtful among us are beginning to realize the vicious tendencies, and to recognize the facility with which the marriage relation may be taken on and put off is a menace to the foundations of society and the jest of the civilized world."

The Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away.—Mal. ii: 16.

"The Church should meet such a situation with a stern front and with legislation which, so far as she is concerned, will make divorce increasingly difficult. But she will have to do a great deal more than that. It will be quite in vain unless we see to it that those reasonable precautions of forethought, inquiry, publicity, and of intelligent understanding of the obligations to be assumed which once obtained have preceded it. These were the wise provisions of our fathers' times."

I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies.—Hos. ii: 19.

THE SENSATIONAL NEWSPAPER.

"Looking at the newspaper as it exists to-day in our American society, we find that it is a power which is both bad and good. It is not the newspaper, but the '*newspaper habit*,' that does the hurt. Looking for, living in, and feeding on sensations is not the kind of process that contributes most effectually to moral growth and advancement."

Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?—Job xxxviii: 2.

"The stimulating 'newspaper habit' seems to have so fixed itself upon some people to-day that while there is literature of the best and purest sort around them on every hand, it is not sufficiently stimulating for them to take and read."

The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.—Prov. xv: 14.

"The greatest moral Teacher the world has ever seen—to claim for Him nothing else or nothing more than that—did not lift up His voice or cry aloud in the streets, and when the people asked Him for signs and wonders, He replied that no signs should be given them. And the people who live to-day by the stimulating signs and wonders such as it is the business of the newspaper to give them, cannot hope to appreciate the beauty and the truth of that greatest moral picture which has ever been portrayed on the canvas of human life."

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.—Rev. i: 19.

THE LORD'S DAY.

"The danger that threatens the Lord's day comes from those who have no need of subverting it, from those who 'set the church fashion of seventy-five million people,' and choose to set the fashion of Sunday dinners and musicales, people who do not need that day for recreation, and spend much of every day in amusement."

Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the Sabbath day?—Neh. xiii : 17.

"Centuries of experience show that the religion of Christ must keep or lose Spiritual power in almost exact proportion as the Scriptural Sabbath is hallowed or profaned."

If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day ; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.—Isa. lviii: 13, 14.

"As we learn to fill consecrated time with secular thoughts, like those of the Sunday newspaper, with unnecessary and merciless secular works, like those of many corporations—with secular pleasure, like those of the theatres, and even with secular sins, like those of the saloon—we so far agree to abandon the Sabbath and to content ourselves with the low type of Christianity so widely prevailing on the continent of Europe."

If the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the Sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the Sabbath.—Neh. x : 31.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT.

"Are we prepared to weigh the gravity of the fact that more than one-half of our population will soon be urban and that in due time we shall be a nation of cities ? "

Seek the peace of the city . . . and pray unto the Lord for it ; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.—Jer. xxix : 7.

"There are few cities in the United States which the liquor power is not able to dominate. What if the saloon controls the city when the city controls the State and nation?"

The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.—Gen. xi : 5.

"The saloon is the school of anarchy, and the schoolmaster of anarchists. In this way it endeavors to sap the very foundations of the American Republic and tear down the pillars of the church of God."

A fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly: . . . it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it.—Dan. vii : 7.

"Perhaps there is not a city in the United States where those who would prefer good government are not in a large majority, and yet they allow themselves to be ruled and plundered by a corrupt minority."

They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.—Dan. v : 4.

"It is impossible for a republic long to endure if it becomes either corrupt or cowardly. The peril of corruption we all remember, but *cowardice* as a public evil most of us forget. It is the respectable canker of American life."

And God looked upon the earth, and behold it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, the end of all flesh is come before me: . . . I will destroy them with the earth.—Gen. vi : 12, 13.

"The cowardice of good men in corporations, the cowardice of rich men for fear of taxation, the cowardice of churches, charities and institutions, and lastly the personal cowardice of individuals, which keeps them out of the rough and tumble fight of local politics."

Deal courageously, and the Lord shall be with the good.—II. Chron. xix: 11.

"If we are to meet the present emergency, this then is the generic reform — the education of public opinion, and of the

popular conscience. Public opinion, which is the ruler of the American Republic, is kept right and true by our religion."

That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this.—Isa. xli: 20.

MATERIALISM—"THE SHADOW ON AMERICAN LIFE."

"The greatest peril to modern civilization is its materialism. The city will dominate the future, and the materialism of the city makes it a menace to itself, to the State, and to the nation."

There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel; thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.—Josh. vii: 13.

"It is safe to say that for the enrichment of the world there has been more than three times as much wealth produced during this *one* century, as during the eighteen centuries preceding."

Thou shalt remember the Lord thy god; for it is he that giveth the power to get wealth.—Deut. viii: 18.

"We are now increasing wealth at the rate of $7,000,000 a day. During this century each generation in the United States has been able to hand down four or five times as much wealth as it received from the preceding."

An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.—Prov. xx: 21.

"The increase of material wealth is simply prodigious. There has been *no corresponding* increase in our wealth of literature and of noble ideas; no such massing of moral and spiritual treasure."

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but . . . that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.—I. Tim. vi: 17, 18.

"And we, with all our heaped up wealth, our complex learning, from which glimmers the light of the Christ, with all our

Christian symbolism, and with all our professions, we are in danger of the vastest idolatry the world has ever seen—idolatry of gold."

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man ; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: . . . Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.—I. Cor. x : 13, 14.

"We ought to come to feel as a nation that all that we have, all that makes us proud to be Americans, and confident of American destiny is given us that we may share it, and that in so complete a sense that it is only by sharing it that we ever truly possess it."

The half of my goods I give to the poor ; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.—Luke xix: 8.

"The richest gift of all, is the gift of opportunity, the gift of power to give."

Even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.—Mat. xx : 28.

"All the millions given to hospitals and colleges will not save a nation from materialism if its people are prone to measure things by the material standard."

Tyrus did build herself a stronghold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the streets.—Zec. ix: 3.

"No people in the world have so high an average standard of physical comfort as the Americans. It is something to rejoice in and to be proud of, but nevertheless the blessing has its dangers, and a danger that no thoughtful observer will be too confident we have not fallen into."

When thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied: Then thy heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God.—Deut. viii : 13, 14.

"May the God of our fathers keep us from perishing, like the old, corrupt civilizations, through our wealth, our prosperity, our luxurious living, pleasure seeking, and our lavish expenditure upon ourselves."

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.—Lam. iii : 40.

EXECUTION OF LAW.

"An obstacle to the coming of Christian civilization is the apparent inability in many American communities, to secure the steady, inexorable, unvarying execution of righteous law on all offenders, making the law an even-faced, unwearing engine of daily justice."

The law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth; for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.—Hab. i: 4.

"In view of the renewed activity of the Mormon propaganda, it is well to remember that it was the undermining of the *family tie* that caused the fall of all the ancient States. The family is not only the basis of the State, but it is the *preserver* of its *life*. In the family are contained all the elements of the State, government, authority, love, care, respect, obedience, and a mutual regard and consideration of others."

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.—Prov. xxx: 12.

"When overpowered by the terrible need among the men in our regular army for spiritual and moral guidance, to my utter horror, I found the chaplain of the regiment to be a Mormon Elder, who in his second service denied the divinity of Christ and the doctrine of the Holy Trinity."

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—Titus ii: 11, 12.

"We, the House of Representatives, protest against Mormonism on behalf of the constituency that has read the ten commandments and the sermon on the mount. We protest on behalf of the American homes made beautiful by love and devotion, and holy by the virtue of our womanhood. We protest on behalf of the American mother and her child and the American father, who will never consent to the enthronement and deification of human passion."

Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord . . . lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood.—Deut. xxix: 18.

RACE AND LABOR PROBLEM.

"In the national race problem, all men know and all men forget, that there is no legal short cut to Christian civilization, no suffrage pill for the cure of ignorance and immorality in body politics—the final remedy is not in the mob which suppresses the vote, but in thrift and education which, through slow years, elevate the man."

Who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive?—I. Cor. iv: 7.

"We are coming to realize in America that the hope of democracy lies not in new theories nor in radical reforms, but in genuine comradeship with those we would help, and in the knowledge that we have not only something to teach our less fortunate fellow-citizens, but something to learn from them as well."

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and the unwise.—Rom. i: 14.

"Neither liberty nor equality are exactly possible, but brotherhood in Jesus Christ is possible, and out of it will come all the liberty and all the equality that is possible or wise for the good of mankind and for the government of the world."

They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.—Isa. xli: 6.

"The mightiest of all the forces that make for mutual sympathy is the fresh exaltation of the person of our Lord. The critical, even the naturalistic studies of our day have unveiled the glory of the historic Christ. As men return to a full faith in His Deity, and to a fresh and vivid vision of His as real humanity, they feel anew the unifying power in Him of a common love and a common hope."

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.—Jno. xii: 32.

NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

"We have conquered the world in war, we have conquered it in trade, we have conquered it in science, and *we* must save the world. If in our politics, our business, our banks, our cities, our

lives and homes, Jesus Christ comes to stay and rule, the world will be *His*."

Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant.—Isa. xli: 9.

"There is in civilization no energy inherently calculated to yield gospel effects. *Culture* is not even third cousin to *holiness*. What is said about trying to make men better or about trying to make nations better by introducing among them the subduing influence of letters and arts is, nine-tenths of it, aside from the mark."

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. . . . Art thou a master of Israel, and knoweth not these things?—Jno. iii: 3, 10.

"The nation's success is the Church's opportunity. Let us be honest with ourselves. Do we really want Christ's kingdom on earth? Are we showing in our daily lives that we want it? It will not come by *observation*, but by *work*.

Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them?—Hos. xiv: 9.

"And if not, then all we have and own must pass away; and better men and worthier civilizations must take up the standard of His cross and give to the nations of a future day His law, for through every age the voice of his unchanging purpose rings."

I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it; and it shall be no more, until he come, whose right it is; and I will give it to him.—Ez. xxi: 27.

CONCLUSION.

"We have no right to hope that somehow all will come out right, that good will be the final goal of ill, and that, in some way or other, in spite of present neglect, these duties and responsibilities will get themselves done for us in the future."

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might: for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. —Ec. ix: 10.

"What our country needs to-day is not men who are willing to *die* for it, but men who are willing to *live* for it."

And they stood up every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.—Judg. vii: 21.

"Oh, what a world this would soon be if the perseverance of the saints were made of as enduring stuff as the *perseverance of the sinners!*"

And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.—Job. i: 7.

"Come, O breath of the divine Spirit, and breathe upon the dead bones of the Christian churches that forget that they are evangelists of the nations that they may live and stand upon their feet, an exceeding great army, an army with banners."

Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth.—Acts 1: 8.

"Let us go to our work with no idle and timorous searchings of heart, no speculations whether it is safe for us to accept the task. It is God's work. What if we are spent in doing it, if the world is the richer for our spending? The patriot counts loss as gain if the loss is *his* and the gain his country's. Surely Christians will not have the less trust in their Captain and their country."

O, man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong, And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened.—Dan. x: 19.

"The Captain of our salvation summons his Church militant to-day, not to a forlorn hope, but to certain and glorious victory. . . . Standing in the midst of modern society, he is saying to our social unrest, to the conflict of classes, to the fears of many, 'Peace be unto you.'"

Now therefore in the sight of all Israel the congregation of the Lord, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the Commandments of the Lord, your God; that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you forever.—I. Chr. xxviii: 8.

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